MI Child Support Formula - ADM 2003-22: 10

From: "Jeffrey Albers" < wendyandjeff@peoplepc.com>

To: <MCSF@courts.mi.gov>

Date: 7/1/2003 3:43 PM **Subject:** ADM 2003-22: 10

ADM 2003-22: 10 should be adopted because many non custodial parents have been supporting their children for years under biased guidelines. For example, a person has their children for 125 overnights and are/have been paying according to the state's guidelines. These current guidelines don't take into account the amount of time the parent has the children in their custody. The child support treats the non custodial parent like they are not even in the children's lives. The parent is paying the maximum amount mandated PLUS incurring all the expenses when the child is at that parent's home (i.e. school field trips, extracurricular activities, school lunches). These proposed changes recognize this huge oversight and are an attempt to fix the current problems.

Why should non custodial parents get all the joy of caring for their children and spending frivolously (on occasion) taken away because the other parent insists on them paying the maximum. The parents look for the courts to be unbiased, but the current guidelines clearly are skewed to the custodial parent. Change clearly dictates a larger workload in the beginning, but once all changes are implemented, the system should be less strained. Is an increased workload a big enough reason to continue to financially punish those parents that don't enjoy equal time with their children? Also, the state seems slow to recognize the increased equality between men and women in the workplace/society by still continuing to favor the mother in most issues concerning the care and support of the children.

Looking at the current guidelines, if a parent is within a few days of the current "128 minimum" overnights, shouldn't they be given the consideration of having their situation investigated and have an opportunity to participate equally in the financial spending on their children?

Wendy Albers